

## ABSTRACT

A method of preparing vegetable matter for inclusion in commercial packeted pet food, which includes the steps of: treating the vegetable material with sodium metabisulfite; dehydrating the vegetable matter, such that its relative water activity will be lower than about 0.40; coating the treated vegetable matter with humectant material; wherein said humectant material is selected from a group consisting of: a mixture of sorbitol, glucose and glycerol; a mixture of vegetable oil, glucose and glycerol; animal tallow.